

Dear Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee

I am writing in **SUPPORT** of S.B. No. 365 AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS and H.B. 5418 AN ACT REVISING JUVENILE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATUTES AND INSURANCE STATUTES CONCERNING THEFT OF A MOTOR VEHICLE.

The recent crime spree that is taking place throughout our state and right here in my community of Fairfield is alarming and stresses the need for serious juvenile justice reforms. Both bills are an important first step in addressing a criminal justice system that has fallen out of balance.

Over the past couple of months, terrifying crimes have taken place in Fairfield. From a carjacking outside a downtown Fairfield ice-cream shop to our children's teachers being robbed at gunpoint in a school parking lot, it is evident that there is a crime problem and we need to do something to address the issue before a tragic event occurs.

The juvenile justice system in Connecticut has fallen out of balance and is being exploited by repeat criminals that understand that there are little to no consequences for being arrested. This only emboldens further criminal activity and is a disservice to both the community and those individuals committing the crime that unfortunately believe they can commit a crime without the juvenile justice responding in any meaningful way.

We need to enact criminal justice reforms like SB 365 and HB 5418 that focus on prevention, accountability and rehabilitation. Commonsense reforms like implementing victim impact panels, electronic monitoring for juveniles arrested while awaiting trial on previous offenses, and expedited arraignment for felonies, sex assaults, offenses involving use of a firearm are also well overdue.

Lawmakers should not continue to ignore the overwhelming spike in crime. We are past the time for studies and legislative action is needed this session. To do otherwise is irresponsible and we should not have to wait until a more tragic incident occurs before action is taken.

Sincerely,

Brian Farnen

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